

a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);

☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;

☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or

☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified:
- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:
6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

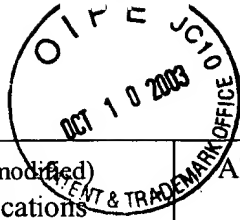
If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-80002/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 10-8-03

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)  
List of Patents and Publications  
For Applicant's Information  
Disclosure Statement  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DKT. NO. 5181-80002

SERIAL NO. 09/943,181

APPLICANT: Heffernan et al.

GROUP: 2661

FILING DATE: August 30, 2001

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE APPROPRIAT
	B1	5,881,235	3/9/99	Mills			
	B2	5,881,235	3/9/99	Mills			
	B3	5,803,762	9/8/98	Green			
	B4	5,420,572	5/30/95	Dolin, Jr., et al			
	B5	5,420,572	5/30/95	Dolin, Jr., et al			
	B6	4,774,399	9/27/88	Fujita, et al			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATIO YES/NO
	B7	00/27093	5/11/00	WO			
	B8	2 342 091	4/5/00	GB			
	B9	2 338 159	12/8/99	GB			
	B10	98/57474	12/17/98	WO			
	B11	98/38761	9/3/98	WO			
	B12	0 899 925	8/28/98	EP			
	B13	06-156152	7/7/94	JP			
	B14	05091111	4/9/93	JP			
	B15	0 556 148	1/8/93	EP			

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	B16	European Search Report Application Number GB0101215.2 mailed March 28, 2002.
	B17	International search report application number PCT/US01/25281 mailed December 14, 2001.
	B18	International Search Report Application Number GB0021456.9 mailed October 30, 2001.

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.